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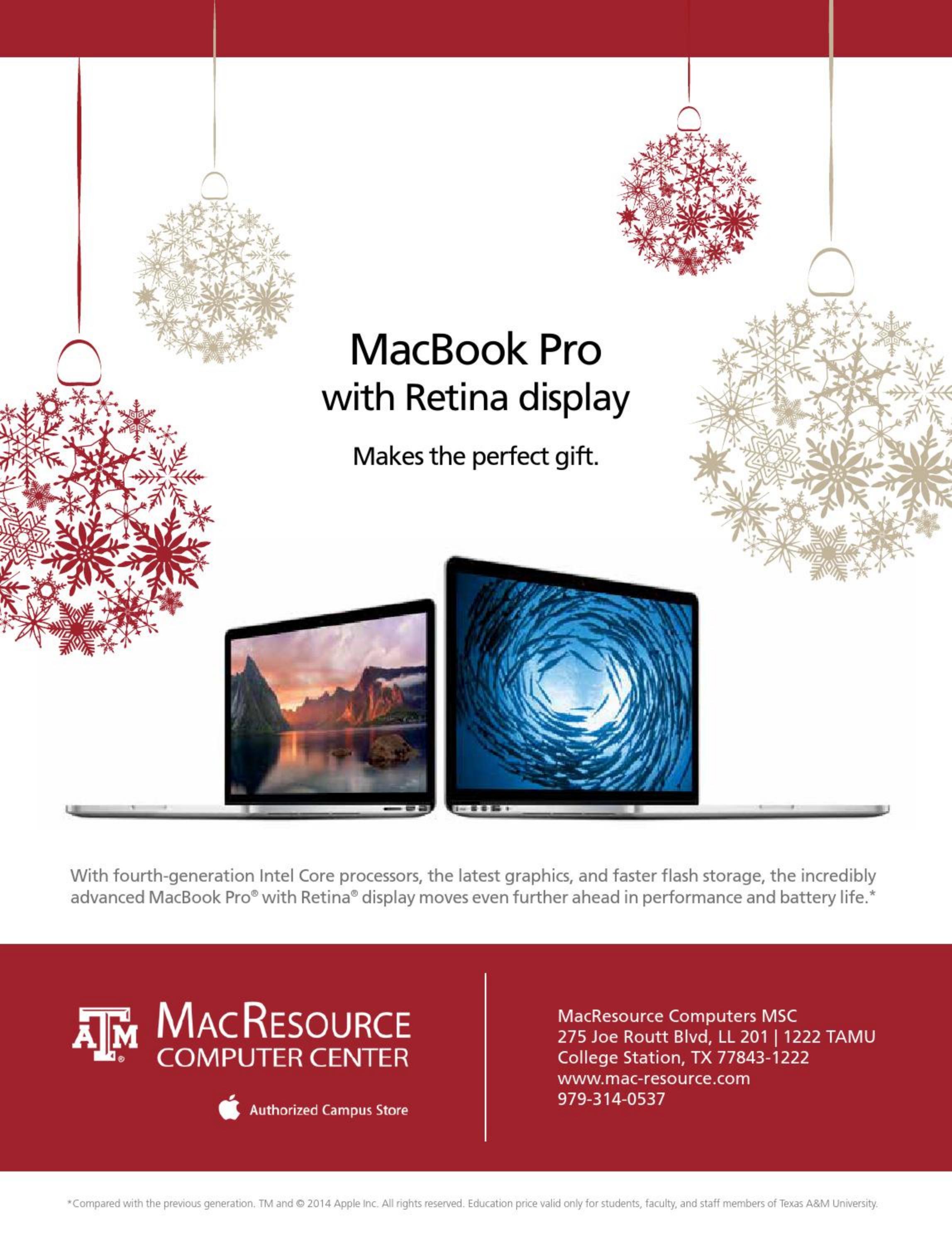
## ALSO INSIDE

FOOTBALL REWIND  
STEPHANIE AIPLE  
ALLIE BAILEY  
AND MORE...

## TOUGH STRETCH

AGGIES GO THROUGH  
THE GAUNTLET





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**On the Cover:** Edward Pope stretches out to make huge touchdown catch against Arkansas! Photo by Rob Havens '88.





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# Howdy Ags!

Vince Lombardi once said, "The greatest accomplishment is not in never falling but in rising again after you fall." The Aggie football team has lost three games to three of the best teams in the country. It's difficult to know exactly where we are, having just gone through "the gauntlet" that is the SEC Western division. As Coach Sumlin put it, "At least we are a part of that gauntlet." The team is facing the best competition in the country with a young team that is being led by a sophomore, first-year starting quarterback and a defense that lost, arguably, its two best players before the season started. I'm confident that Coach Sumlin and his staff will make the necessary changes to right the ship and get this team back on the winning track.

Our soccer team is having another stellar season and finds themselves on the brink of another SEC championship. This team has the talent to keep playing into the month of December. Battling injuries throughout the season, our ladies have continued to improve and are looking to add more hardware to the Aggie Soccer trophy case. Check out our interview with Senior Allie Bailey in this issue.

The men's basketball team has made big news lately as Coach Kennedy received another verbal commitment for next year's signing class. Four of the top five players in the state of Texas have made verbal commitments to play for the Aggies, giving us the number two signing class in the nation!

The volleyball team continues to improve, and Coach Corbelli is ready to guide the ladies into the NCAAs. Check out our interview with freshman phenom Stephanie Aiple inside. The Aggies have been battle-tested this season and have shown that they can compete with anyone.

I'm looking forward to watching our football team rise again after the mid-season losses and show the true heart that Aggies have. We knew the SEC would be tough and, as for me, I'd much rather watch our guys compete in the best conference in the nation than settle for beating mediocre teams in our old conference. I'm anxious to see Coach Lombardi's quote come true as we see the Ags rebound and rise again!

Gig'em Ags!

*Rob '88*



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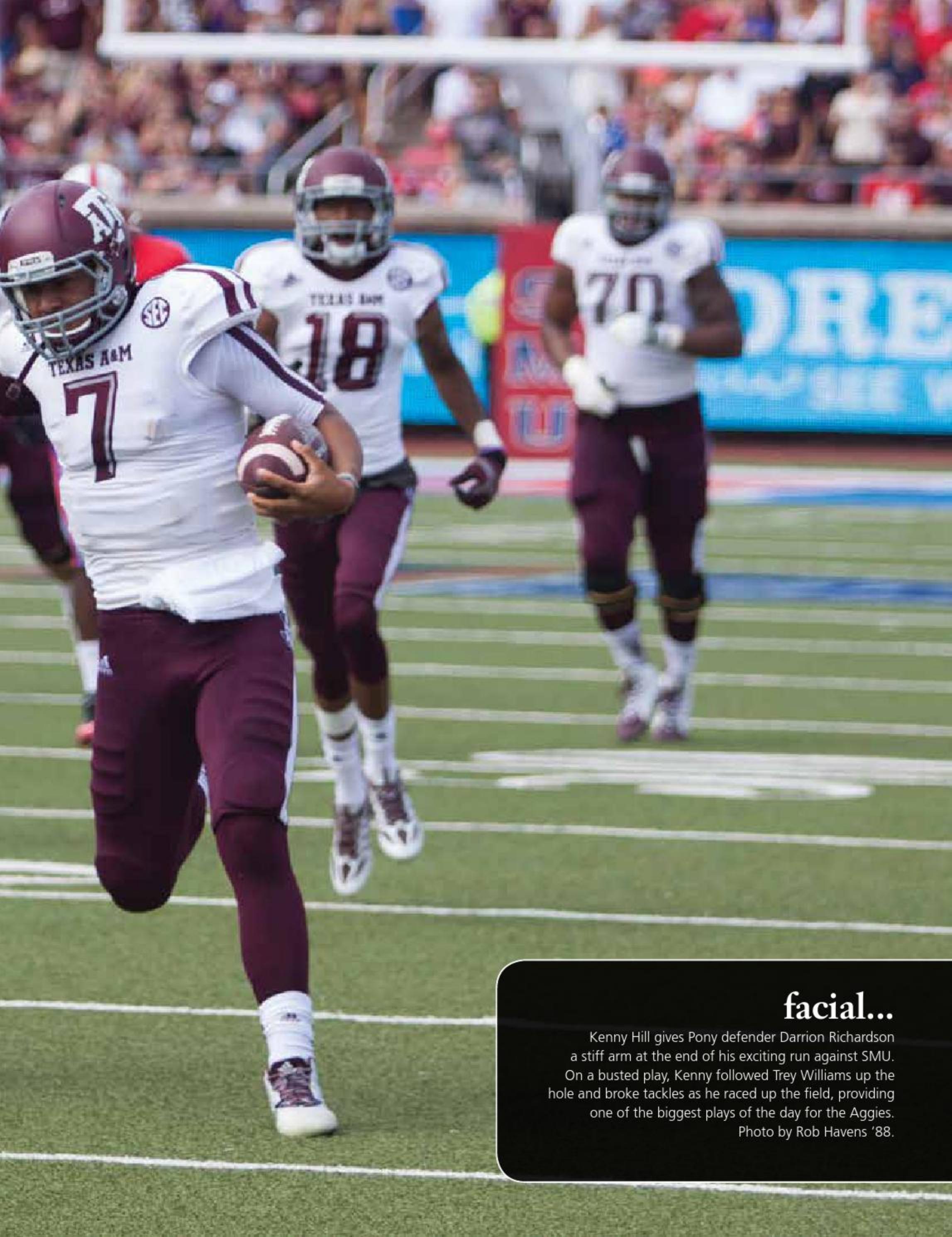
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snapshot





## facial...

Kenny Hill gives Pony defender Darrion Richardson a stiff arm at the end of his exciting run against SMU.

On a busted play, Kenny followed Trey Williams up the hole and broke tackles as he raced up the field, providing one of the biggest plays of the day for the Aggies.

Photo by Rob Havens '88.

snapshot



## concentration...

Senior Malcome Kennedy made this circus catch in the Aggies' 58-6 victory over SMU. Kennedy had six catches for seventy-six yards against the Mustangs and has been a consistent target for Kenny Hill throughout this entire season. He has become one of the most vocal leaders for the Ags both on and off the field.

Photo by Rob Havens '88.



snapshot





## hat trick...

Aggie soccer phenom Shea Groom celebrates after her second of three goals versus the Tennessee Volunteers. Enduring a torrential downpour for half of the match, the Ags opened up conference play with a big win over the Vols, giving the Aggies their first victory over the orange and white since joining the SEC.  
Photo by Sarah Pyatt '14.

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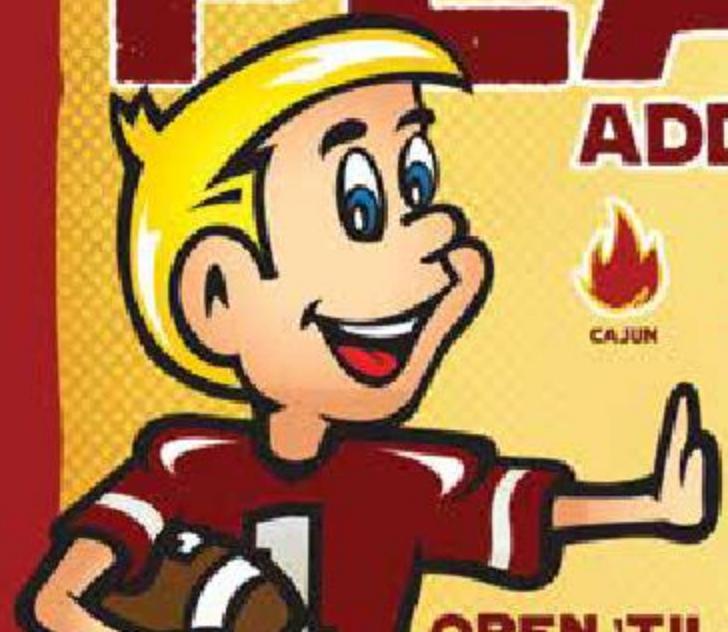
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# billyliucci's TOP 44 IN '15

## Quarterbacks (2)

1	Kyler Murray <small>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</small>	Allen	6-0	185
2	Jarrett Stidham <small>Committed to Texas Tech</small>	Stephenville	6-3	190

## Running Backs (9)

1	Rodney Anderson <small>Committed to Oklahoma</small>	Katy	6-0	205
2	Ronald Jones <small>Committed to OSU</small>	McKinney North	6-0	185
3	Chris Warren <small>TEX, Ark, UGA</small>	Rockwall	6-2	210
4	Jay Bradford <small>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</small>	Splendora	5-10	190
5	Corey Dauphine <small>Committed to TTU</small>	PA Memorial	5-10	175
6	Soso Jamabo <small>TEX, A&amp;M, OU</small>	Plano West	6-3	200
7	Aca'Cedric Ware <small>Committed to USC</small>	Cedar Hill	6-0	200
8	Tyrek Gray <small>BU, Cal, OU</small>	Episcopal	5-11	180
9	Tristan Houston <small>Committed to Texas</small>	North Shore	6-0	195

## Wide Receivers (4)

1	DaMarkus Lodge <small>A&amp;M, BU, OU, Miss, Clm</small>	Cedar Hill	6-2	190
2	Kemah Silverand <small>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</small>	Cy Ridge	6-0	185
3	Chad President <small>Committed to Baylor</small>	Temple	6-2	180
4	Carlos Strickland <small>LSU, TEX, BU</small>	Skyline	6-5	200

## Linebackers (3)

1	Malik Jefferson <small>A&amp;M, Bama, TEX, LSU</small>	Poteet	6-2	210
2	Richard Moore <small>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</small>	Cedar Hill	6-0	205
3	Cameron Townsend <small>TEX, BU, OU</small>	Ridge Point	6-0	195

## Athlete (2)

1	J.W. Ketchum <small>TEX, A&amp;M, BU</small>	Lamar	6-0	180
2	Louis Brown <small>Committed to Texas</small>	Burton	6-6	210

## Tight End (1)

1	Jordan Davis <small>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</small>	Clear Lake	6-4	240
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## Defensive Ends (1)

1	James Lockhart <small>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</small>	Ennis	6-3	240
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## Cornerbacks (6)

1	Kendall Sheffield <small>A&amp;M, Bama, TEX</small>	FB Marshall	6-0	175
2	Holton Hill <small>TEX, A&amp;M, BU, LSU</small>	Lamar	6-1	180
3	Kris Boyd <small>A&amp;M, TEX, Bama, FSU, BU</small>	Gilmer	6-0	175
4	Roney Elam <small>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</small>	Newton	6-3	170
5	P.J. Mbanasor <small>Committed to Oklahoma</small>	Hendrickson	6-2	185
6	Jaylon Lane <small>Committed to OSU</small>	Nacogdoches	6-1	185

## Safeties (5)

1	Deionte Thompson <small>Committed to Alabama</small>	West Orange-Stark	6-2	175
2	Larry Pryor <small>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</small>	Sulphur Springs	6-2	203
3	Justin Dunning <small>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</small>	Whitehouse	6-4	205
4	Deshon Elliott <small>Committed to Texas</small>	Rockwall-Heath	6-1	200
5	Prentice McKinney <small>Committed to Notre Dame</small>	South Oak Cliff	6-2	180

## Defensive Tackles (4)

1	Daylon Mack <small>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</small>	Gladewater	6-1	305
2	Darrion Daniels <small>BU, OU, A&amp;M</small>	Bishop Dunne	6-3	290
3	Kingsley Keke <small>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</small>	George Ranch	6-4	290
4	Du'Vonte Lampkin <small>Committed to Texas</small>	Cy Falls	6-4	290

## Offensive Linemen (7)

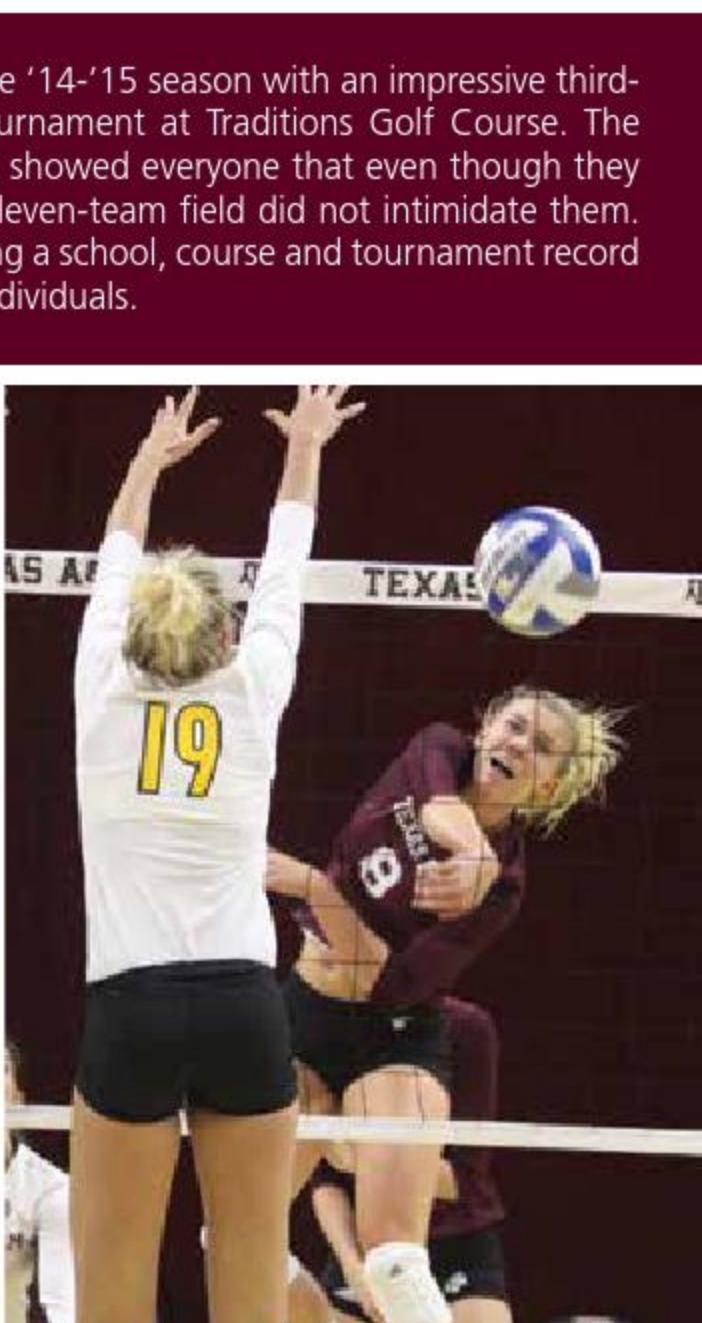
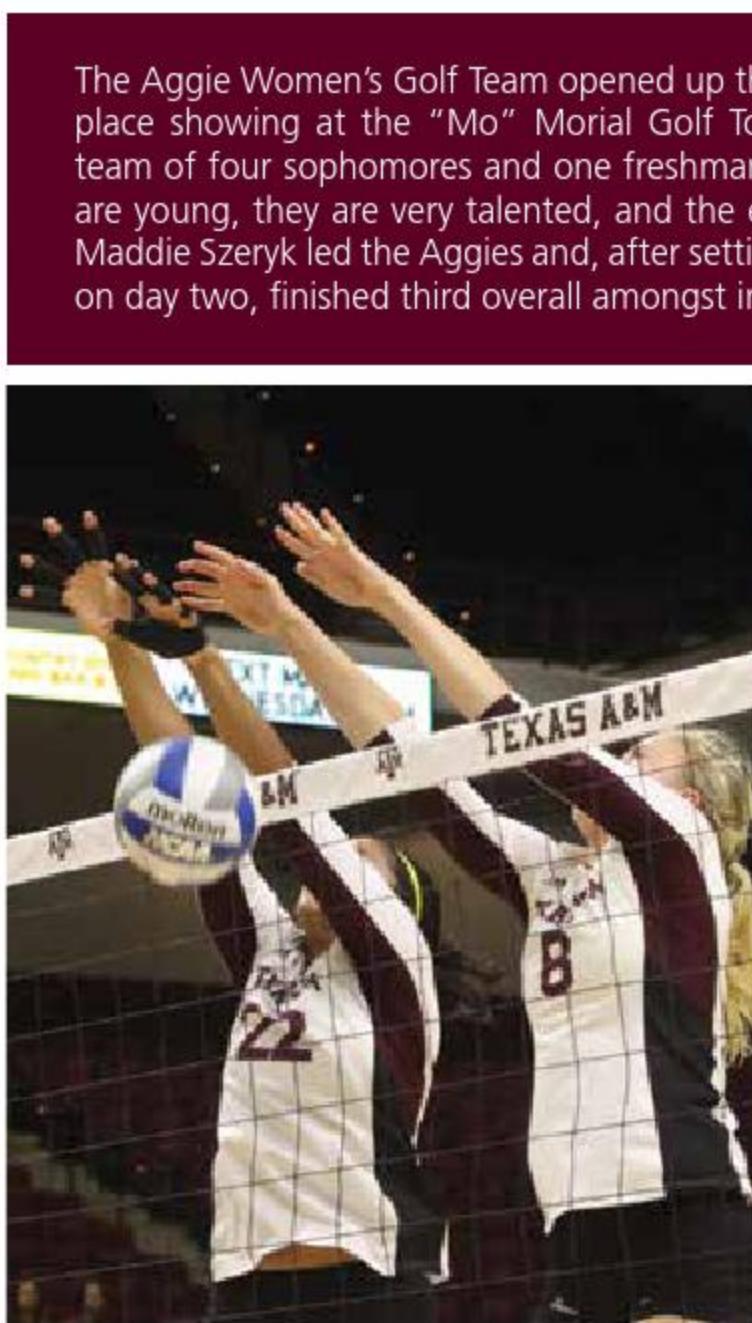
1	Trevor Elbert <small>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</small>	Rockwall-Heath	6-5	280
2	Maea Teuhema <small>Committed to LSU</small>	Keller	6-5	330
3	Bobby Evans <small>Committed to Oklahoma</small>	Allen	6-4	240
4	Toby Weathersby <small>Committed to Texas</small>	Westfield	6-4	280
5	Connor Lanfear <small>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</small>	Hays	6-5	287
6	Patrick Vahe <small>Committed to Texas</small>	Euless Trinity	6-3	290
7	Keaton Sutherland <small>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</small>	Marcus	6-5	260

## scoreboard



The Aggie soccer team has had a tremendous year so far. They jumped out to a four game winning streak, even though three of their starters were fighting the injury bug. The ladies continued to work hard and young players stepped up as the Aggies went 6-1-1 in non-conference play. Going 5-1 through their first six matches in the SEC, these ladies are on a mission to win a championship. Led by goal-scoring leader Shea Groom and Kelley Monogue, the Ags have fought together to make an impressive run in the conference battle for supremacy, and they currently lead the league in most goals scored. The regular season crown will come down to the final game of the season.





The Aggie Women's Golf Team opened up the '14-'15 season with an impressive third-place showing at the "Mo" Morial Golf Tournament at Traditions Golf Course. The team of four sophomores and one freshman showed everyone that even though they are young, they are very talented, and the eleven-team field did not intimidate them. Maddie Szeryk led the Aggies and, after setting a school, course and tournament record on day two, finished third overall amongst individuals.

After coming off a devastating loss to the University of Texas in last year's NCAA tournament, the 2014 Texas A&M women's volleyball team showed that they are back and stronger than ever by winning seven of their eight matches at big-time pre-season tournaments around the country. Junior middle blocker Shelby Sullivan led the team in these victories, averaging ten kills per game. The Aggies began conference play with the same winning mentality, shutting down Auburn and Tennessee in just three sets each. The ladies also had an impressive win versus Alabama in a thrilling five-set match here in College Station. They are in the meat of their conference schedule and have shown the ability to compete with anyone in the country.



# allie bailey

CALIFORNIA GIRL LOVES PLAYING IN TEXAS!

BY ROB HAVENS '88

How long have you been playing soccer?

I have been playing soccer since I was about five years old. I started playing on a recreational team. I did rec for about two years until I was seven, and that's when I started playing club soccer.

How did you make it to A&M?

My first time in College Station was for a tournament with my club team out on the Penberthy fields. It was in December of my junior year in high school, and it coincided with the Final Four that A&M was hosting. It was my first time to see

the school, and I really liked it. I talked to the coaches a little bit, and my Dad let me come back a few weeks later to really consider it. At that time I just fell in love with everything here—just all the support the soccer team gets and how great the coaches are, and the team. And it's a big sports school, so everything was a perfect fit. I decided my junior year in high school that I was going to come here.

You grew up in California, right?

I was born in San Diego. We lived up north for a couple of years, but then we moved back to San Diego. So, I lived in San Diego for most of my life. I think I knew I was going to leave

California for college. I was looking at schools all over and was very open to leaving, and I'm very happy that I did. I love being able to get a different experience in Texas. The culture is so different. I love everything about it here.

What are you studying?

I'm in Telecommunication Media Studies with a minor in Sports Management.

With a couple of SEC championships and a national ranking, do you feel like there is a bigger target on the team's back?

I think there has always kind of been a target on our back. We've always been a really good team. I think we have really high expectations of ourselves this season, but that's just going to keep motivating us.

Tell me about the fans here. Is the environment different than other places you've played?

Oh yeah, definitely. We have the Maroon Militia, which is a group of students that really support us a lot. They come to all the home games and are great fans. I haven't played anywhere that seems to have a consistent fan base like we do. We've had great attendance this year. Some places where we play will have maybe fifty people, mostly parents and family. It's definitely a lot of fun to play in front of the 12<sup>th</sup> man. And it's great that they come out and support us.

Does it make a difference in how you all play?

Oh, definitely, especially on Friday nights. It's an indescribable feeling, I guess, with all the fans there and knowing that they have your back, that they are supporting you and the team. I'm not taking any moment for granted, especially with this being my last season.



What's your favorite moment on the team so far?

There are a couple. I think winning the SEC Tournament last year was one of the best feelings because we were co-champions with Florida for the SEC Conference, and then beating them in the finals kind of solidified us as the number one team in the SEC going into the tournament. The other moment would be in my freshman year when we beat North Carolina, who was number one at the time. That was a memory I'll always have because it was a turning point for my freshman season.

Is there a moment that was special for you personally?

I guess last season when we beat Utah. I had the golden goal in overtime. I think that was probably my biggest goal since I've been in college. It brought us to the next round. I'm such a team player, and that was a team win, but it was also a highlight for me personally.

What's your favorite way to celebrate a goal?

I'm not a big celebrator. (Laughs) Whoever assisted me gets the credit. I just like to celebrate with my teammates! It's always a team win for us.

In addition to going to school and playing soccer, you also work for 12<sup>th</sup> Man Productions, correct?

It's the video production team for the athletic department. When I came for one of my visits, I got to tour there and I thought it was really cool. I didn't apply as a freshman because I wanted to see what it was like to balance school and soccer. I applied spring of my sophomore year and was hired. I've worked there for over a year. It's been really, really fun and they've been really accommodating to me, knowing that school and soccer are my top priorities. I do a lot with them during my off-season.



"I think I can speak on behalf of our staff, but for me, Allie's one of my favorite players that I've ever had here. She's a genuinely great person. She's a very smart player and is very coachable. She's obviously good at a lot of the things that soccer players around the country and the world are great at on their own, but she's also very good in a team setting. She makes the people around her better. I can't think of a much higher compliment for a person in the Texas A&M program." - Coach G



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**A&M 2014  
FOOTBALL REWIND**

## [ GAME 1: A&M 52, SOUTH CAROLINA 28 ]



### ▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



Coming into the South Carolina game, few experts gave the Aggies a chance to defeat the Gamecocks and bring an end to their eighteen-game home winning streak. But the Ags came out hitting on all cylinders. Kenny Hill was very impressive at the helm for the first time as a starter, throwing for 511 yards and breaking Johnny Manziel's single-game passing record. Hill completed forty-four of sixty attempts and passed for three touchdowns. Malcome Kennedy led the Aggie receivers with fourteen catches for an impressive 137 yards, while Tra Carson rushed for three touchdowns against the Cocks, who gave up 680 yards of offense to Texas A&M. The defense was much improved from last season and, with the exception of a couple of long touchdown catches, held USC well below the scoring average of their opponents last year.

## [ GAME 2: LAMAR 3, A&M 73 ]



### ▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



The #9 Aggies returned home from South Carolina with a ton of confidence and some newfound respect from the national college football experts. As the Ags reopened Kyle Field, the place was electric with the largest crowd to see a college football game in the history of Texas. The 12th Man filed in, the fireworks went off, the team ran out onto the field—and then lightning flashed, sending the teams back into the locker rooms for a two-hour and five-minute weather delay. Most of the fans stayed to watch the Aggies dismantle the Lamar Cardinals in an offensive display that made the fireworks at the beginning of the game seem like a box of party snaps. Kenny Hill threw for 283 yards and four touchdowns in three quarters of work, while true freshman Myles Garret put on a show defensively with five tackles and two sacks.

## [ GAME 3: A&M 38, RICE 10 ]



### ▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



Though the Aggies got off to a slow start in week three against Rice, they were able to get things going in the second half and blew out the Owls by the score of 38-10. In the first quarter Kenny Hill connected on a fourteen-yard pass to Speedy Noil, giving the true freshman his first career touchdown. The 12th Man came alive just before the half as Armani Watts picked up a blocked field goal and raced ninety-three yards for the score. Unfortunately, the play was negated by a penalty, leaving the Ags with only a fourteen-point lead at the half. Hill threw four touchdowns on the day and set the record for the most yards passing in the first three games of a season with 1,094 yards. The Aggie field crew kept busy all night replacing divots after several inches of rain soaked the field the night before.

## [ GAME 4: A&M 58, SMU 6 ]



### ▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



The #6 ranked Aggies made the short drive to Dallas to take on interim coach Tom Mason and the 0-2 SMU Mustangs. On a hot and humid day, Texas A&M had their way with SMU and moved their record to 4-0 for the first time since 2006. Kenny Hill had 322 yards of total offense in just one half of work, leading the Aggies to a 38-3 halftime lead. Trey Williams scored two touchdowns on the ground for the Ags, and sophomore wide receiver Jeremy Tabuyo had two catches for 80 yards and two scores through the air. Kyle Allen came in to lead the Ags in the second half and was 8-15 for 130 yards and a touchdown. Texas A&M had eight different players catch passes and five different players score touchdowns.

## [ GAME 5: A&M 35, ARKANSAS 28 ]



Coming into the Arkansas game with a 4-0 record, the Aggies were confident, but the Hogs were much improved from the team that won only three games in '13. In front of a capacity crowd split equally between the two fan bases, the Ags jumped on the Razorbacks on the first drive, scoring the first touchdown in less than a minute. It looked like the Aggies would cruise to an easy win. Unfortunately, the rest of the first half didn't go as well as the offense sputtered, made mistakes, and scored only one more touchdown in the first thirty minutes. Meanwhile, the largest offensive line in all of football pounded away at the Aggie defensive line and tied up the game at fourteen apiece. It looked like that would be the halftime score as the Aggie defense held the Hogs and made them punt with 1:15 left in the half. However, Coach Bielema gambled and ran a fake punt from his own forty-nine yard

line, resulting in a long touchdown run by the punter that put the Hogs on top 21-14 at the half with a ton of momentum.

Arkansas extended their lead to 28-14 late in the third quarter, and things were not looking good for the sixth-ranked Aggies. With just over twelve minutes left in the fourth quarter and backed up to their own thirteen yard line, the Ags made a play that changed the game. Kenny Hill found a streaking Edward Pope down the center of the field and hit him in stride, drawing the Aggies within seven and giving them new life.

The Aggie defense continued the turnaround by forcing a three-and-out, but on the next series Hill underthrew Reynolds and the Hogs intercepted, putting an end to the Aggies'



comeback attempt. Both teams were unable to score on successive drives, and with 2:34 left in regulation, the Hogs lined up for a 44-yard field goal that would pretty much seal the game. But the kick sailed wide left, setting up the exciting finish for the Ags. Two plays later Kenny found Josh Reynolds for a 59-yard touchdown that tied the game with only 2:08 left.

Both teams got an opportunity to touch the ball in the final two minutes, but neither was able to take advantage and the game went to overtime. On the first play of the extra period, Hill found Malcome Kennedy on a double move right down the center of the field. Kennedy caught Hill's perfect pass and raced untouched into the end zone.

The Razorbacks took the field needing a touchdown to send the game into double overtime, but the Aggie defense would have nothing to do with that. They made three great stops and forced a fourth-and-two for the final play of the game. The Hogs lined up in a power formation and Collins attempted to go left, but the Ags quickly closed the hole; he cut right where Julien Obioha and Deshazor Everett forced him backwards. The defense had stopped the Hogs to win the game. The sideline raced onto the field and the crowd went nuts, sending Arkansas fans to their cars in despair. The Aggies had come back from a two-touchdown deficit with twelve minutes to go to defeat the Hogs and extend their record to 5-0.

## [ GAME 6: MISSISSIPPI STATE 48, A&M 31 ]



### ▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



Coming off the most physical game of the year and an emotionally draining victory over the Razorbacks, the Aggies continued their drive through the gauntlet with a trip to Starkville, Mississippi. The team was surprised with icy white uniforms when they arrived in the visitors' locker room. They carried that excitement onto the field, scoring a touchdown on their very first drive. But the Bulldogs dominated the game from that point forward as the Ags were plagued with dropped passes, mental mistakes, and a tired defense that resulted in their first loss of the season. Kenny Hill threw for 365 yards and four touchdowns, but he also threw three interceptions. An injured Malcome Kennedy watched the game from the sidelines as the Bulldogs frustrated both the offense and defense for most of the game.

## [ GAME 7: OLE MISS 35, A&M 20 ]



### ▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME

Ole Miss vs. **ATM**

Coming off of a devastating defeat to Mississippi State, the Aggies were eager to get back on the field and put the loss behind them. A record-setting crowd of 110,633 showed up to witness the Aggies take on the number three team in the nation, which was coming off of a tremendous win over Alabama. Unfortunately, the Rebels proved to be too much for the Ags and jumped out to a 21-0 lead. Texas A&M struggled once again to get the offense going and Ole Miss had its way early on versus our defense, allowing them to take control of the game. Three turnovers by Kenny Hill, including a 75-yard pick six and a scoop-and-score off of his fumble put the game out of reach and sent the Aggies to the loser column again. True freshman Speedy Noil was the lone bright spot on the team with big plays all night in both receiving and special teams.

## [ GAME 8: ALABAMA 59, A&M 0 ]



### ▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME

After a two-game skid, the Aggies went to Tuscaloosa hoping the magic from two years ago might help the team rebound and get back to its winning ways. Unfortunately, it was not to be as the Tide dominated the Aggies in all three areas of the game: offense, defense, and special teams. Bama showed its National Championship form and scored on almost every drive. The over-matched Ags were left shaking their heads as, time after time, they were unable to move the ball. Alabama imposed their will and controlled the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball. It was the Aggies' biggest loss since the 77-0 loss to OU in 2003. The lone bright spot of the day was a 75-yard kickoff return by Trey Williams, which was the longest return by an Aggie all season.



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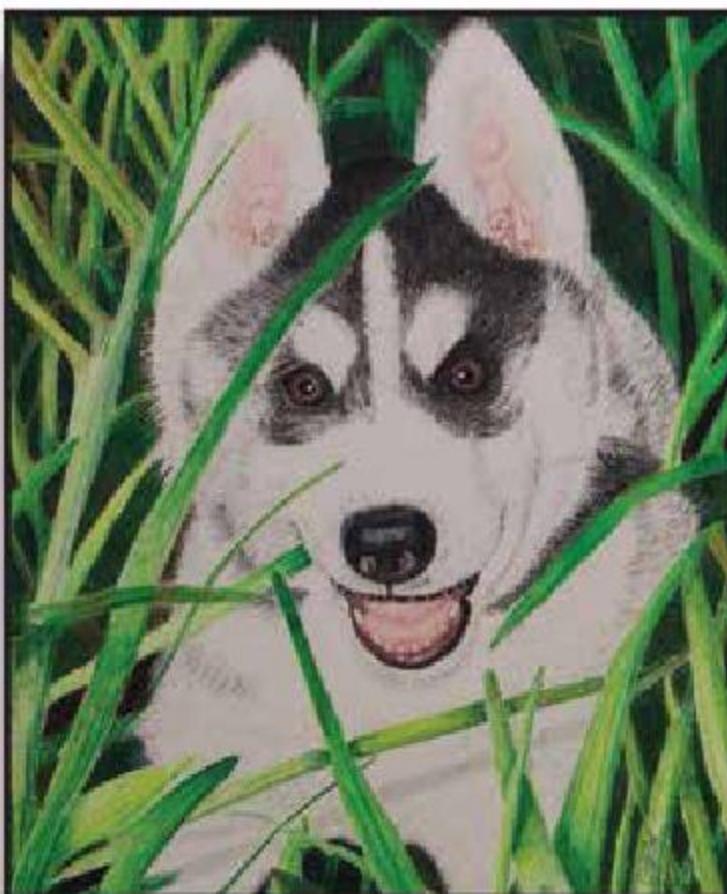
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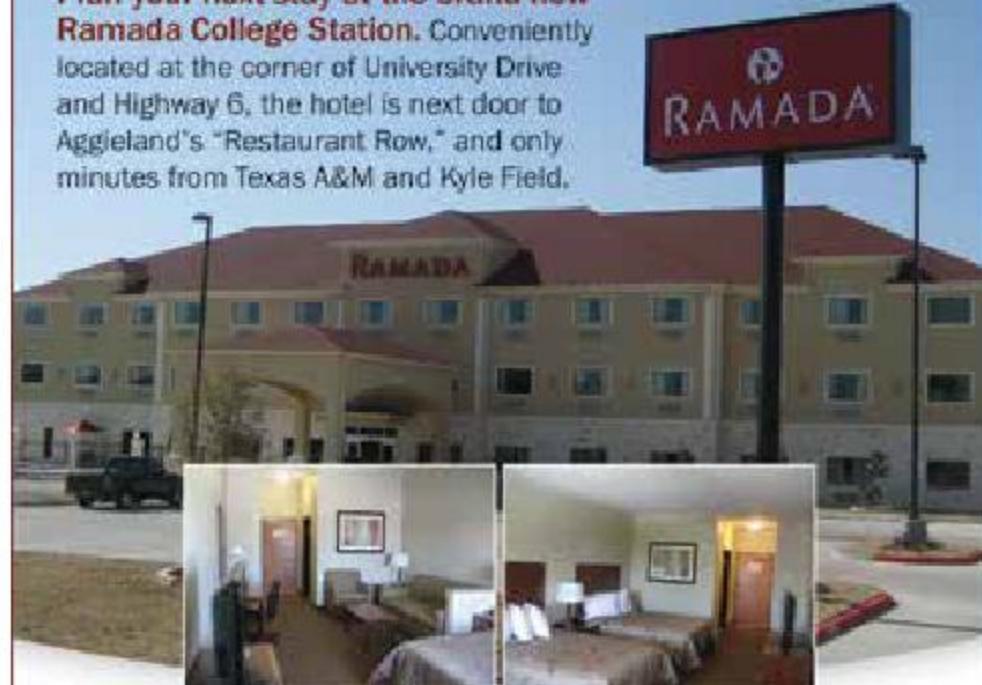
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# LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT!

## Q&A with Stephanie Aiple

BY ROB HAVENS '88

How long have you been playing volleyball?

I started playing when I was about nine years old. It was a YMCA team, nothing too competitive. Then I started playing club volleyball at ten. I played on an eleven-and-under team and then I played on a twelve-and-under team for three years in a row. And it basically kicked off from there.

Did you play other sports growing up?

I did. I played softball, and I had to choose between softball and volleyball in the sixth grade because their seasons conflicted with each other, which was very hard for me because I loved softball so much. I'm still really good friends with the girls that I played with. I'm still really good family friends with the families that I grew up with. I started softball at a really young age too, when I was four or five. So, softball and volleyball were my two main sports when I was little.

You played for your aunt in high school at Round Rock and she went to Texas, so did you receive death threats when you chose to come to A&M?

Yes, she played at UT. No, (laughter) she of course is a huge rival of A&M but she was always very supportive of me. And she is so happy for me that I'm here. She knows that I love it and she comes to support me. We joke around every once in a while about A&M and UT, but she's really supportive and really cool about it.

At what point did you decide to come to A&M?

It was actually very late in my recruiting process. It was at the tail end of my recruiting process and I had my mind set that I was going to go out of state. But with family, and just maturing, and realizing that I didn't want to be too far from my parents and family and friends, I thought, "What if I stayed in Texas?" The funny thing is that I never wanted to go to UT, so my only other option was A&M, really. I was like, "Why not give it a try?" I knew Angela, Jazz and Hannah Hood because they played the same club as I did. Why not give it a look? It wasn't going to hurt anything. So, I came here on my first visit and knew this is where I was coming. I love this place so much. The coaches are awesome, the girls are awesome, and I just fell in love with it right away.

It's been a pretty amazing year for you so far.

Yeah, I've had so much fun! Coming here in the spring and getting to know the girls I think really helped. They were so welcoming and we had a pretty successful spring season. We kicked off this season so far really successfully. We've had nothing but a blast so far this year.

You've received two SEC Freshman of the Week honors as well as being named the ESPNW's National Volleyball Player of the week?

Yeah, that was pretty exciting! (Laugh)

First Aggie to ever get that!

Yeah, that was really humbling and exciting. Obviously, I can't do it without my team and the coaches, but that was awesome!

Is the setter kind of like the quarterback out there? Tell me about your position.

Setting is obviously a tough position. In a way, I run the court, but the coaches are also giving me feedback on what to do. I'm not completely running the court out there. We have so many leadership roles. I have help from my teammates with leading, because I am so young, and I also have help from the coaches. It's honestly a cycle of leadership; they're so helpful to me, so comforting. They accept me being so young and they don't care how old I am. They'll listen to me if I tell them to run a certain play. They never doubt me. We just all work together to make that quarterback role.

Are the plays called between points?

Yeah, every point the play calls will usually switch. They don't differ that much, but they switch up a little bit. Some of that is my decision and some is the coaches' decision. Some of it depends on the passing. So, it all kind of depends. I'm not making all of the decisions on my own; I have help from my teammates and coaches.

What's your favorite Aggie tradition?

The 12th Man. I love that no matter what sport, no matter if you're winning or losing, everyone is cheering for you. The yell leaders come out and are yelling the entire game. I think that's so awesome, and having their support behind us definitely helps us as a team to be competitive.

"Aiple is literally the definition of stud. I even told her parents. I feel so fortunate to have not only a great setter but also a quality kid. She's so dedicated to success and achievement. Great in the classroom, great in practice every day, and she's got a sense of location of her sets and body position that you can't really coach. I mean it's so natural. I know she's been around the game all of her life, with her mom having been a college player, and her aunt, so that helps. I think the volleyball IQ is really high. She's a quiet leader. She's not extravagant in anything she does in terms of being in a performance type setting, but she's all about just getting the job done. She's noted that she never gets nervous before games. She just knows that it's volleyball. She's been doing it all her life and she's just ready to go. So, we are one lucky program." - Laurie Corbelli





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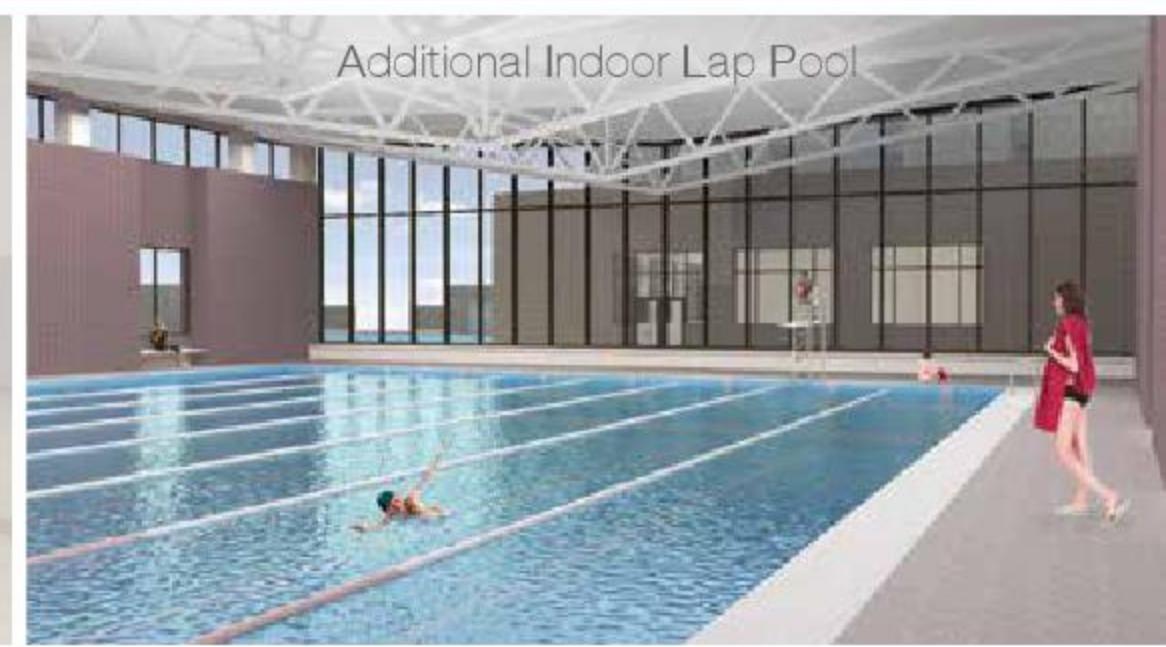
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## Polo

BY ROB HAVENS '88



The origin of the sport of polo dates back to sixth-century B.C. in Persia, while the Texas A&M Rec Sports Polo Club began just fifty years ago. A large group of private individuals who simply enjoyed the sport got it started, according to club president Kyle Hamilton. The club eventually became

part of the Rec Sports program, and this year it will celebrate its milestone 50th anniversary. Combining the athleticism of horse and rider, the sport requires the pair to work together along with the other riders on the team to achieve success.

Hamilton said, "Members typically join the club because they enjoy being around horses; others join just to try something new." A flier in the Annex caught Kyle's attention and, having ridden before, he decided to try it out. Most new members have no experience with polo but may have some riding experience before joining the team. The current team has 40-50 members, including Cacho Galindo, who also plays professionally.

The team practices two or three times per week and also participates in open riding, which allows everyone in the club to ride two or three times per week as well. A&M has hosted regionals in the past and is excited to be hosting again

this spring, with SMU, Colorado State, Texas, TCU and Texas Tech all coming to Aggieland. Hamilton told AI that SMU is normally the team to beat and that the Ags have had a healthy rivalry with the Ponies, fighting for the regional championship.

The men's team has won the National Championship six times: in 1996, 1997, 1998, 2007, 2008 and 2010. The women's team was National Champs in 1994 and 1995. The team has also collected multiple All Star Awards, and A&M's horses win Best Playing Pony/String almost every year. The club receives some funding from Texas A&M Rec Sports, while the remaining funds are generated from members and fundraising. Hamilton enjoys being president of the club because it allows him to meet the new members as well as serve as a liaison between private clubs around College Station. He also loves to compete and says that traveling with the team is a great way to bond with his fellow teammates.

Visit [recsports.tamu.edu](http://recsports.tamu.edu) for more information about Texas A&M Sport Clubs.

## Crew

BY ROB HAVENS '88

One of the things that makes A&M so special is that a student will have an idea and come up with a creative way to make it happen. In 2001, a student by the name of Greg Wood thought the school should have a crew team. With no boats and no funds, he came up with a plan to generate the money at a garage sale to buy boats so Aggies could row. Now, thirteen years later, Wood's idea has become a reality and the Aggies have a successful crew team.

The Aggies have a few more boats than they did in '01, and approximately sixty members compete in both men's and women's crew. Because many of the regattas in which the team competes don't distinguish between NCAA and sport clubs, the Ags are facing the highest level of competition. Texas A&M recently took on Texas, Baylor, Rice, St. Edward's and Texas A&M-Galveston at the Head of the Brazos in Waco. The open women's 4+ took first place over Texas, St. Edward's and Northwestern

State, while the men's 4+ had a strong second place finish at the event.

Diana Brandon, who leads the women's team, is in her ninth semester on the squad. She has consistently been at the top of the women's rankings since the fall of her freshman year. On the men's side, Garret Hardin is in his third semester with the team and, like Diana, has remained at the top of the men's team rankings.

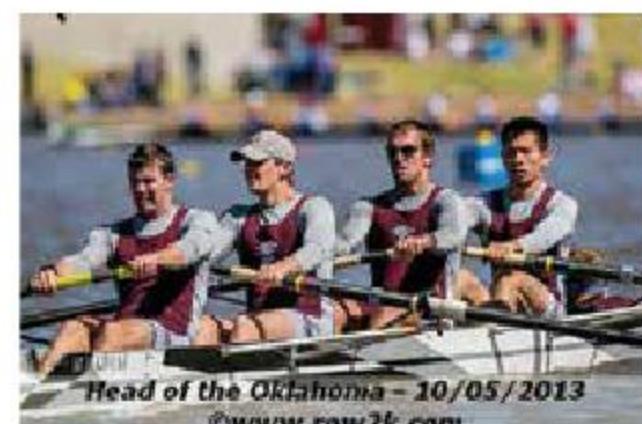
President Selina Lee Brandon said, "Members typically join the club because it is something they have never done before. Rowing in itself has a reputation of respect and exclusivity that many people don't understand yet want to be a part of." Brandon told AI, "Most students who join have zero experience. The sport is fairly easy to learn yet extremely difficult to master. We welcome all levels of experience for anyone wanting to join."

Most rowers on the team practice two or three times per week on the water. A performance training session

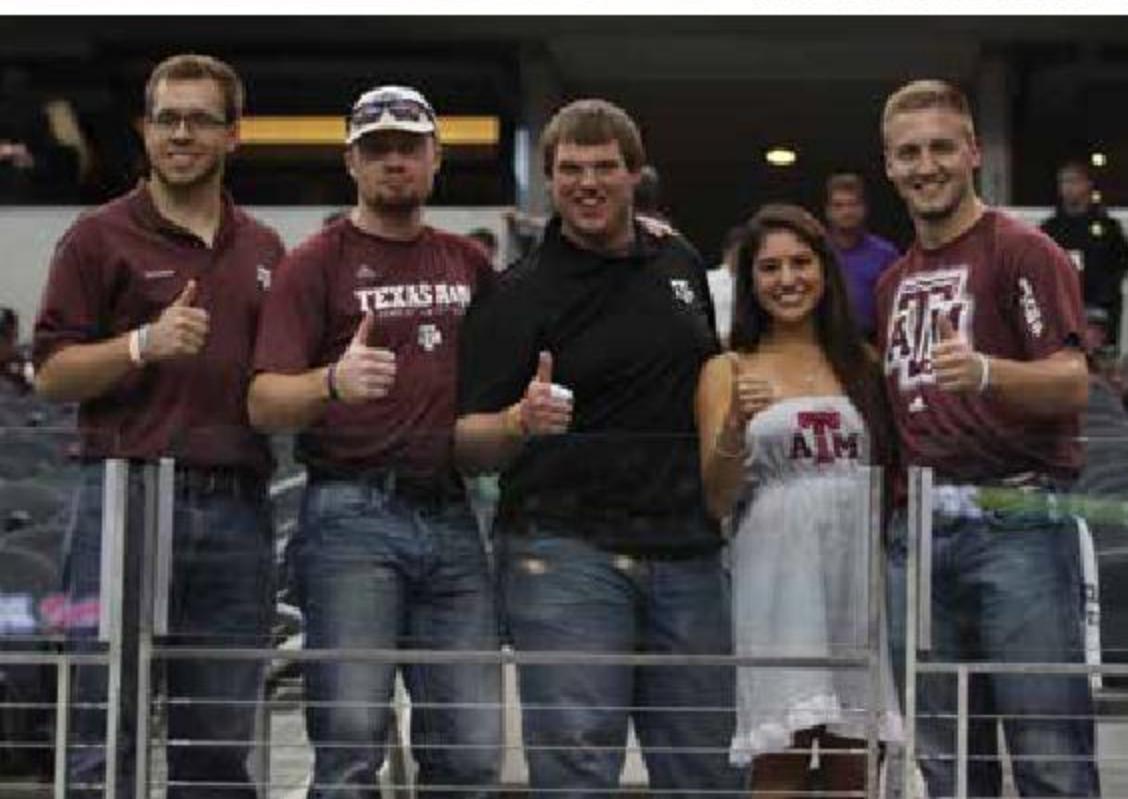
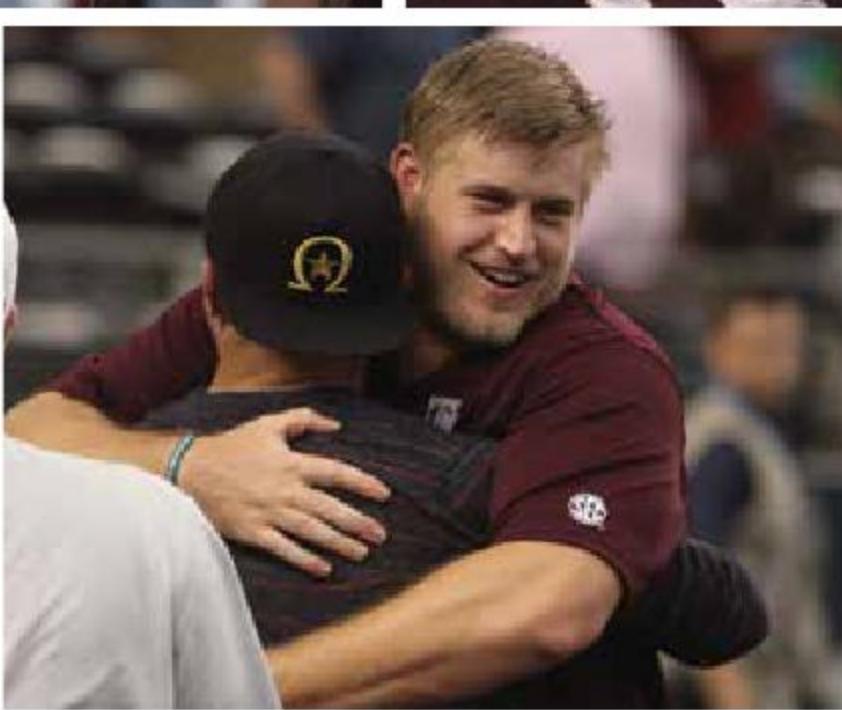
is also held at the Rec Center on Tuesday mornings to help condition the athletes. Selina is proud of the growth of the program and says, "Aggies across the country get excited when they see that we are competing, and it's extremely rewarding to experience."



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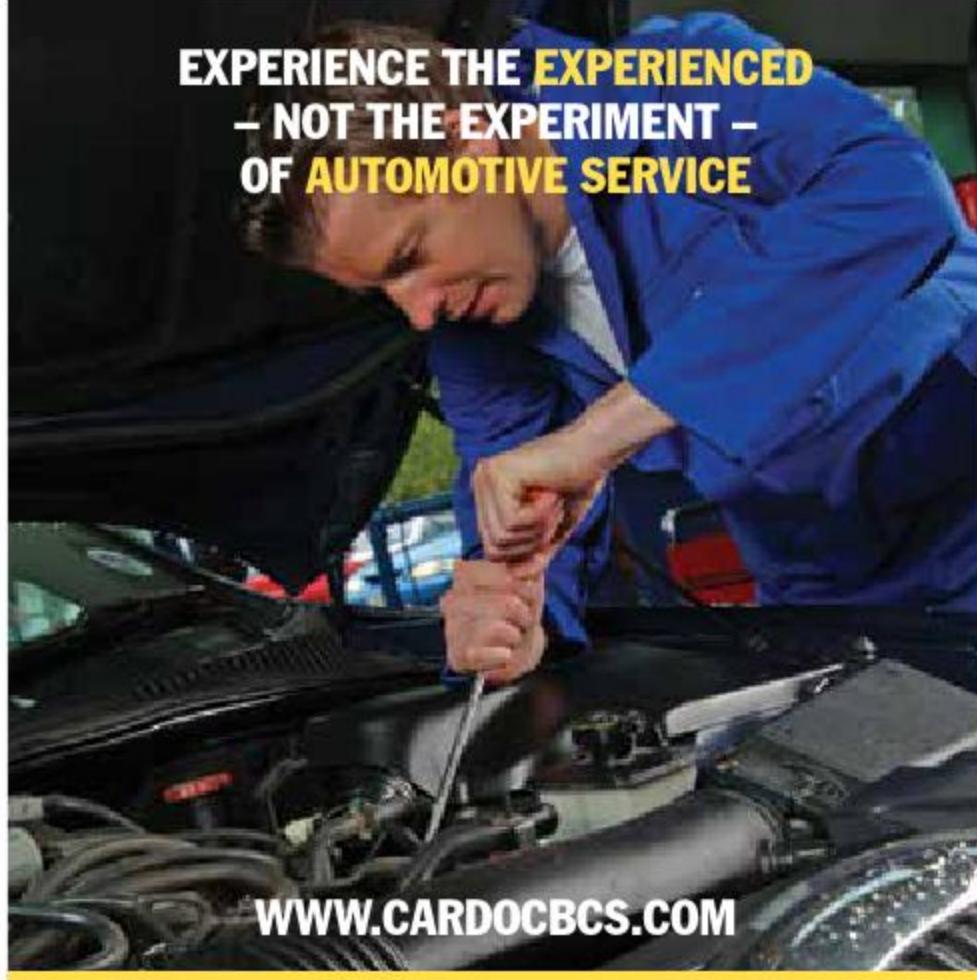




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